



Recommendation for Action

File #: 21-3495, **Agenda Item #:** 8.

12/2/2021

Posting Language

Ratify a contract with Greater Austin Performing Arts Center to deploy the Austin Music Disaster Relief Grant (AMDRG) program in response to the music industry creative workers facing hardships due to the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic in the amount of \$2,530,000.00.

Lead Department

Economic Development.

Fiscal Note

Funding in the amount of \$2,388,565.03 is available from the U.S. Department of Treasury, American Rescue Plan and funding in the amount of \$141,434.97 is available in the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 General Fund Emergency Reserve.

Prior Council Action:

April 9, 2020- Mayor and Council approved Resolution No. 20200409-086, directing the City Manager to establish an "Austin Music Disaster Relief Fund" to provide emergency relief for Austin's most vulnerable musicians who are in need resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic and related government actions taken to halt the spread of the disease.

April 23, 2020 - Council voted to amend Ordinance No. 20200423-067, the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 General Fund Emergency Reserve to designate \$1,500,000 for the Austin Music Disaster Relief Fund

May 20, 2021 - Approve Resolution No. 20210520-060 directing the City Manager to explore funding in an amount not to exceed \$25 million from the American Rescue Plan, General Revenue, and other city, state, and federal funding sources, to stabilize the Austin cultural arts and music communities as they combat the economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and Winter Storm Uri.

June 10, 2021 - Approved Resolution No. 20210610-077 adopting the American Rescue Plan Act Spending Framework and authorizing the City Manager to make the necessary allocations.

June 10, 2021 - Approved Resolution No. 20210610-078 amending the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Financial Services Department Operating Budget Special Revenue Fund (Ordinance No. 20200812-001) to appropriate an amount not to exceed \$49,400,000 from the U.S. Department of Treasury, available through the American Rescue Plan Act, for municipal purposes related to the Coronavirus disease outbreak and recovery efforts.

For More Information:

Sylvia Holt-Rabb, Acting Director, Economic Development Department, 512-974-3131

Eric Shamaly, Music & Entertainment Division Manager, Economic Development Department, 512-974-7821.

Additional Backup Information:

This item requests Council to ratify the contract with the Greater Austin Performing Arts Center (The Long Center) to deploy the Austin Music Disaster Relief Grant (AMDRG) program in response to the music industry

creative workers facing hardships due to the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Long Center <<https://thelongcenter.org/>>, will activate and disburse the Austin Music Disaster Relief Grant (AMDRG) program as identified in the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). Services will include utilizing the City of Austin Portal application system to best streamline the evaluation and scoring tasks according to City program guidelines, to provide a final list of eligible and scored applicants for Fiscal Year 2021-2022 AMDRG to the City of Austin, and issue checks to AMDRG awardees.

The Austin City Council approved [Resolution No. 20210610-077](https://www.austintexas.gov/department/city-council/2021/20210610-reg.htm) on June 10, 2021 to dedicate \$4 million from the federal American Rescue Plan Act's Local Fiscal Recovery Fund Austin's Music Industry. There is \$2.3 million available for this grant. The program guidelines align with Music Commission Recommendation No: 20210820-1a.

Initially, Council provided direction in April 2021, to establish an Austin Music Disaster Relief Fund and to provide emergency disaster relief to musicians affected by COVID-19 pandemic. Best practices were identified from feedback from the Austin music community-to form eligibility and application guidelines to be executed by a third party. To ensure that Austin's most vulnerable musicians are aware of the opportunity and prepared to apply and coordinate with community partners to inform music communities across Austin and provide technical support necessary for musicians to complete grant applications.

Staff anticipates that applications for AMDRG program will go live and be evaluated and processed in late 2021.

Strategic Outcome(s):

Economic Opportunity and Affordability & Culture & Lifelong Learning.